

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) The microwave waveguide according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ **9**, wherein said field modifier is adjustable.
3. (currently amended) The microwave waveguide according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ **9**, wherein said waveguide includes at least two field modifiers having nonlinear profiles.
4. (previously presented) The microwave waveguide according to claim 2, wherein said field modifier is adjusted through the use of mechanical actuators.
5. (previously presented) The microwave waveguide according to claim 2, wherein said field modifier is adjusted in response to a sensed condition in a web to be dried.
6. (currently amended) The microwave waveguide according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ **9**, wherein said field modifier is physically coupled to said broad walls.
7. (currently amended) The microwave waveguide according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ **9**, wherein said field modifier is capacitively coupled to said broad walls.
8. (currently amended) The microwave waveguide according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ **9**, wherein said field modifier is configured to provide uniform heating or drying along the length of the waveguide.
9. (currently amended) ~~The microwave waveguide according to claim 1,~~ **A microwave waveguide comprising:**

**broad walls separated by and electromagnetically coupled with at least one field modifier,**

**wherein said modifier has a nonlinear profile, and**

wherein said field modifier is configured to provide a relative slot height profile as defined by

$$h(z) = (b/\pi) \sin^{-1} [(1/\sin^2(\pi h_0/b) - 2\omega Z \epsilon_0 \epsilon''_r t z/b)^{-1/2}]$$

Claims 10-16 (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A microwave waveguide comprising:  
broad walls separated by and electromagnetically coupled with at least one narrow wall, wherein said narrow wall has a nonlinear profile, ~~and wherein the broad walls comprise a slot~~

~~at least partially off-center~~

wherein said narrow wall is configured to provide a relative slot height profile as defined by

$$h(z) = (b/\pi) \sin^{-1}[(1/\sin^2(\pi h_0/b) - 2\omega Z \epsilon_0 \epsilon'' tz/b)^{-1/2}]$$

18. (previously presented) The microwave waveguide according to claim 17, wherein said narrow wall is adjustable.

19. (previously presented) The microwave waveguide according to claim 17, wherein said waveguide includes at least two narrow walls having nonlinear profiles.

20. (new) The microwave waveguide according to claim 9, wherein the broad walls comprise a slot at least partially off-center.